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Happy New Year

WOW 2010, what a year it was. It was a year of change, opportunity, some sad goodbyes and some bright greetings. In every organization there are a group of people who you really learn you can depend on.

I have really learned I can depend on a small group of people I call my MVP's (Most Valuable Players) or the "Unsung Heroes". Some of you may ask, what is an Unsung Hero? Well, it is a person who does great deeds but receives little or no recognition for them. I will not attempt to name each person individually but they all belong to the same group. I may call them "MVP's" or "Unsung Heroes", but most people call them Association Representatives. Thanks for all you do for NCAE, the children and public education.

We can WIN, if we WORK TOGETHER!!!

NCAE president Sheri Strickland, is a determined, tireless, and diligent worker. In her last article to the membership of NCAE she spoke about NCAE's "Fund Schools First" lobbying campaign that saved thousands of education jobs last year. Our members told hundreds of personal stories about how proposed education cuts would hurt our schools and students. Your voices were critical in helping convince legislators to spare K-12 education from deep cuts last year. With dozens of new legislators and new leaders in Raleigh, we need to get back to work, telling our stories.

Let's make NCAE bigger and even more exciting than last year.

My Thoughts

The year 2010 went by so fast and before you know it, the end of school will be near. I have enjoyed visiting schools and conducting the *Educator and the Law* and *Retirement Seminars* last fall.

If we have not conducted a Seminar for your school, please call to set up an appointment. I enjoy connecting with members. Sometimes when we get busy we forget some of the important issues that we are faced with in public education today. As educators both professional and classified we have to get involved in the Association and make a

difference.

As I travel around my Service Area, I am always asked, Why should teachers and Educational Support Professionals join NCAE?

Well I have always been an NCAE/NEA member since college and that's many, many years ago. Professional Organizations are important and NCAE is the only organization that's working for members. I strongly believe in the leadership of NCAE.

When I was hired for my first teaching job I asked the first teacher I saw, who do I see about joining NCAE? I became an Association Rep and the grievance chair because I believed there needed to be a balance between the administration and the Association.

During my time as an Association leader I met and became friends with many teachers and Educational Support Professionals and to this day I still appreciate the camaraderie I have with my NCAE friends.

When people say they cannot afford to be an NCAE member, I say, how can you not afford to be a member in this day and age with liability suits abounding? Becoming an NCAE member is the most important thing you can do because you will have people behind you who will fight for you.

If you are not involved in the Association, I want to encourage you to get involved. The General Assembly will be in session soon and every decision is a political decision. It's hard to ignore the daily articles and news stories on the looming cuts to public education we're expecting during this legislative session. \$3.8 Billion dollar budget deficit, Merit Pay, Frozen Pay, No Salary Schedule, Employee Paid Health Insurance, etc.

There are lots of other things I could list, but I believe you get my point, you need to be involved.

Pro-Rated Membership Campaign

It's a new year and time for us to recruit new members. **Membership Is the Foundation of a successful local Association.** A successful Association membership program is one on which all other programs and goals depend—vital programs and goals geared toward helping to ensure a quality public education for every child.

Expect to strengthen membership by achieving the following three goals:

1. Turning potential members into actual members.
2. Dealing with members' concerns, showing that you want them to be satisfied members.

3. Involving every member in Association activities.

The key to successful membership recruitment and retention is the recognition that membership success is everyone's job. It starts with the president and includes every Association member.

The goal of our Pro-Rated Membership Campaign is two (2) new members in every building before March 1st. We can do it. How? By making membership a **"Top Priority"**. Magazine publishers don't rely on one contact with potential subscribers to encourage subscriptions. Insurance and credit card companies don't make one annual enrollment appeal. Why should Association membership be any different?

We have two (2) months to get two members. Can we do it? Yes! For every building that achieves the goal we will put the names of the Association Representatives in for a drawing for some much wanted prizes.

Thanks in advance for the success of your two new members in two months.

For Certified Educators: \$199.50

(Local dues, which vary from local to local, must be added to this amount. Administrator members must add \$30 non-prorated division dues)

For Education Support Personnel: \$106.50

(This total does include \$5 ESP Division dues, which are not pro-rated. Local dues, which vary from local to local, must be added to this amount)

There will be prizes for top recruiters!!!

Spotlight on NCAE Member Benefits

Feel the Thrill of Vacation Deals





Need a break from high prices?

Your NCAE Access membership discount benefits provide you with everything you need to create an exciting, memorable and, just as importantly, affordable family vacation. On the website, you'll discover travel, hotel, recreation and dining deals—plus savings at many of the nation's most popular theme parks. Try these on for size:

Complete Orlando Vacation

Orlando, Florida is a veritable gold mine of both fun and savings. Some of our deepest and most popular discounts are there, making it the perfect vacation spot for thrifty families. First, you can save on theme park tickets to **Walt Disney World®** Resort (save up to \$28 per day), SeaWorld (20% off) Aquatica (20% off) and more. Second, you'll need a place to stay. Endless Vacation Rentals offers 10% off condo rentals, while hundreds of hotels are also available offering 5%-50% off your stay.

Third, you'll want to round out your vacation with good food and good fun. Simply type Orlando, FL into the online search and you'll find plenty of both. In all, there are more than 600 travel, entertainment, dining and shopping locations in Orlando alone.

Theme Parks & Roller Coasters

With Access, you'll definitely feel the excitement of saving big. That's because you can save up to \$25 on tickets to Six Flags, home to many of the biggest, tallest, fastest and scariest roller coasters in the nation. Or, if you want to mix your thrills with cultural experiences, animal exhibits and more, try heading to Busch Gardens...and enjoy 20% off your tickets.

Not into the stomach-turning drops and hair-raising turns? Try a gentler experience even the kids will enjoy at places like Sesame Place (20% off), Legoland (up to \$17 off), Hersey Park (up to 26% off) and all 4 locations of SeaWorld.

So take a break from high prices. Wherever you go, Access is there waiting to help you save money.

Now's the Perfect Time to Getaway!

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CERTIFICATES**
by Endless Vacation Rentals®

Enjoy a **7-Night Vacation**
for Only **\$249** USD

Search destinations nationwide, like:

- ▶ LAS VEGAS
- ▶ LAKE TAHOE
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Book by 1/31. Use within 1 year.



MORE TO COME IN A SPECIAL MEMBER BENEFITS ISSUE

One of my favorite quotes is by Pat Conroy from his book Prince of Tides:

“There is no word in the language I revere more than teacher. My heart sings when a kid refers to me as his teacher, and it always has. I’ve honored myself and my whole family by becoming one.”